revealed that the line would not be remunerative. However, several MPs and CM/ Kerala had indicated that if the proposed line could be extended to Trivandrum, and from Sabarimala to Dindigul, the lines would form alternative routes and would become viable. There were also several demands for these lines independently. As such, in order to get a realistic idea of the costs and traffic potential of the routes which would be created as well as of the individual segments, the scope of the survey was enlarged to include the survey for a new BG line from Punalur to Trivandrum. These surveys are still in progress. The reports are expected within this year. Further consideration of this project would become possible as soon as the survey report becomes available.

Impact of Petroleum Price Hike

1490. SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the impact, both direct and indirect, or hike in the prices of pertroleum products on the farmers having marginal, medium and large holdings, category and cost-wise, separately;

(b) whether the Government propose to compensate the farmers for the increase in the costs and if so, the extent and manner of doing the same;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to evolve a formula by which the farmers especially with marginal and medium holdings are to be compensated; and

(d) if so, the broad contours of the said formula?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) In agriculture sector diesel in mostly used for farm machinery and irrigation. As per estimates available under the Comprehensive Scheme for Studying cost of Cultivation/Production of Crops in India, on an average, cost of diesel in the total cost is estimated to be about 4%. This percentage is slightly higher upto 6% in more mechanised States of Punjab and Haryana. The 15% hike in price of diesel is likely to increase the overall cost of production of crops by about 0.6% while it may be in the range of 0.7 to 0.9% in the States of Punjab and Haryana for different crops. Estimates according to size class of holdings are not available.

(b) The increase in the price of diesel will got reflected in the cost of production which is one of the important tangible factors in determining the level of minimum support price of major agricultural commodities. Thus, the rise in the prices of diesel will be duly taken into account in working out the minimum support prices.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Doubling of Railway Line

1491. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for the doubling of Ernakulam-Kayamkulam via Kottayam railway line; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Processed Food Factory of NAFED

1492. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Processed Food Factory of NAFED at Delhi is running into huge losses for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the causes therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to institute an inquiry into the whole issue to locate the reasons for the huge losses and fix the responsibility;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The losses incurred by Processed Food Factory of NAFED at Delhi from 1992-93 onwards are as under:

Year	Net Losses (in Rs. lacs)
1992-93	44.60
1993-94	55.14
1994-95	130.50

The main reasons for the said losses are generally obsolete plant and machinery, interest on capital, high wages and administrative overheads.

(c) to (e). The Board of Directors appointed an Expert Committee to look into the working of the processed food factory. The Expert Committee made certain recommendations which are under implementation.

Introduction of AC Coaches

1493. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce